

MANAGEMENT MEMO

NUMBER:

MM 02-05 (Revised)

SUBJECT:

DATE ISSUED:

FEBRUARY 22, 2002

FEBRUARY 27, 2002 (Revised)

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACCESSIBILITY POLICY

EXPIRES:

WHEN RESCINDED

REFERENCES:

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (SECTION 508)

GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 11135; 11701 (b) & (g); 11710 (d) (i); 11712 (f)

BUDGET ACT OF 2001, 2001-02 FISCAL YEAR

ISSUING AGENCY:

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY

OVERVIEW:

This Management Memo adds Section 4833, Information Technology Accessibility Policy, to the State Administrative Manual.

PURPOSE:

To provide a general overview of how the Americans with Disabilities Act (**Section 508**) affects information technology and specifically, provide information to agencies within the State of California for complying with the **Section 508** Standard of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 794d).

POLICY:

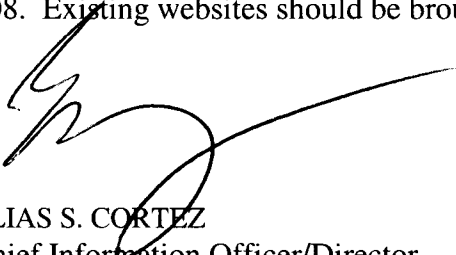
Information and services on the California State Government Web Sites are designed to be accessible to people with disabilities. In 1998 Congress amended the Rehabilitation Act and strengthened provisions covering access to information in the Federal sector. As amended, Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act requires that persons with disabilities have access to the Federal government's electronic and information technology that is comparable to that of persons without disabilities.

The Federal Department of Justice has clearly opined that Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires all state and local governments to develop and maintain accessible web sites just as they are required to build accessible facilities. California Government Code Section 11135 as amended by AB 677, Chapter 708, Statutes of 2001, requires all California Government programs, activities and services to meet the protections and prohibitions contained in Title II of the ADA. It is the responsibility of the agency to become familiar with the guidelines for achieving universal accessibility and to apply these principles in designing and creating any State of California Website. To achieve compliance, agencies need to adhere to Paragraphs A through P of Section (1194.22) - Web-based Intranet and Internet Information and Applications (www.access-board.gov/sec508/guide/).

The use of the Federal guidelines will ensure that web sites created by the State of California are developed to serve the largest possible audience. Compliance with these guidelines provides an added benefit to those users with text-based browsers, low-end processors, slow modem connections and/or no multi-media capabilities on their computer. This policy also covers access to California State Websites by new and future technologies.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Agencies should incorporate this policy in their next Agency Information Management Strategies document submitted to the Department of Information Technology. All new websites should comply with Section 508. Existing websites should be brought into compliance with Section 508 as agency priorities permit.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Cortez', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

ELIAS S. CORTEZ
Chief Information Officer/Director
State of California/Department of Information Technology